



News from

Congressman Ron Kind

REPRESENTING WISCONSIN'S THIRD
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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Cong. Kind Reacts to State of the Union Address

Washington, DC – U.S. Rep. Ron Kind (D-WI) issued the following statement in reaction to President Bush's State of the Union Address:

"As the President reviewed the state of the union and unveiled his second-term agenda, he fell short of adequately explaining how he intends to set America back on the course of fiscal responsibility and secure the fiscal health of the nation. I was listening intently to hear how the President intends to reduce the nation's twin federal and trade deficits, how he plans to finance the \$80 billion Iraq supplemental request and how he proposes to pay for the \$2.2 trillion transition cost of his Social Security privatization plan, and in the absence of hearing any real answers, I can only conclude one thing- the President's dog doesn't bark.

"The President's dog doesn't bark on Social Security. Instead of protecting the millions of workers have paid into the Social Security Trust Fund, the President has made a practice of raiding the fund, undermining Social Security's solvency. Now, the President's proposes to privatize Social Security by borrowing more than \$2 trillion, endangering the benefits of current retirees and leaving a legacy of debt to our children and grandchildren. I am strongly opposed to any privatization plan that cuts current benefits or increases the federal deficit.

"The President's dog doesn't bark on fiscal responsibility. As a member of the Budget Committee, I am deeply concerned by the twin deficits that have swelled to record sizes under President Bush's watch. As a father of two, I think it is morally irresponsible to leave a legacy of debt for our children and grandchildren to inherit.

"The President's dog doesn't bark on true bipartisan cooperation. The President has paid four years of lip-service to bipartisanship while presiding over the most divisive political time in recent history. The time to come together to address the nation's critical problems in a true bipartisan fashion is now, and I stand ready to work with the President in the interest of what's good for the country.

"In the coming year, I believe we can make sure America lives up to its legacy as a land of opportunity if the President is willing to back up his rhetoric with substance. It's time that America's government lived by the same values as America's families. It's time to get serious about the building a better world for future generations, and I will not quit until we have succeeded in securing a future free of debt and burden for our children and grandchildren."